

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 56th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON JOBS AND INCOME

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN BOB DEPRATU**, on January 18, 1999 at 4:30 P.M., in Room 325 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Bob DePratu, Chairman (R)
Rep. Karl Ohs, Vice Chairman (R)
Sen. Lorents Grosfield (R)
Rep. Douglas Mood (R)
Rep. Emily Swanson (D)
Sen. Mike Taylor (R)
Rep. Carley Tuss (D)
Sen. Mignon Waterman (D)
Rep. Bruce Simon (R)
Sen. Jon Tester (D)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Gordon Higgins, Legislative Branch
Deb Thompson, Committee Secretary

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Executive Action: HJ 9, HB 252, HB 172, SB 167,
HB 239, HB 240, HB 260, HB 237

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 9

Rep. Tuss **MOVED DO PASS** HJ 9. The question was called. The motion **PASSED** 8-0. *{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 3.2 - 5}*

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HOUSE BILL 252

Rep. Mood **MOVED DO PASS**. Gordon Higgins explained the amendment. Rep. Ohs **MOVED** the amendments. The question was called on the amendment. The motion **PASSED** 9-0. *{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 5 - 9.4}*

Committee Discussion: *{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 9.4 - 36.9}*

The question was called on the amendment. The amendment **PASSED** unanimously. Rep. Simon **MOVED DO PASS HB 252 AS AMENDED**. The question was called. The motion **PASSED** unanimously.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HOUSE BILL 172

Gordon Higgins explained the amendment. He said this amendment was actually a substitute bill. The bill was misprinted. *{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 40.1 - 43}*

Sen. Waterman **MOVED DO PASS THE SUBSTITUTE BILL**. The question was called on the substitute bill. The motion **PASSED** unanimously. *{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 43 - 53.9}*

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SENATE BILL 167

Gordon Higgins explained the amendments, #16701, which called for a public hearing, prior to the allocation for the low income housing tax credits. Sen. Tester **MOVED DO CONCUR SB 167**. *{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 53.9 - 55.8}*

Sen. Waterman **MOVED** the amendment. The question was called. The motion **PASSED** unanimously. *{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 55.8 - 57.1}*

Sen. Waterman **MOVED DO CONCUR AS AMENDED SB 167**. The question was called. The motion **PASSED** unanimously.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HOUSE BILL 239

Rep. Tuss **MOVED DO PASS** HB 239. Gordon Higgins explained the two amendments, one from Sen. Sprague to switch the percentage. The other amendment would change the percentages again to a 50-50 split and remove the statutory appropriation. *{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 57.1 - 61.2}*

Gordon Higgins said amendment 23902 provides 25% of the 1.5% annual assessment fee on deposits on the Capitol Depository up to a maximum amount of 8.25 million. **{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 1 - 3.2}**

Rep. Tuss **MOVED** the amendment.

Sen. Grosfield **MOVED A SUBSTITUTE MOTION** to adopt amendment #23903. He referred to the Montana Department of Commerce Jobs and Income Commission Analysis, the William Hoffmann handout. **EXHIBIT(joh13a01)**

Rep. Tuss **WITHDREW** her motion regarding amendments #023902. Sen. Grosfield **MOVED** #023903.

Rep. Simon asked if the Commission doesn't exist what would happen. Gordon Higgins replied the coordination instruction would be there. **{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 2.3 - 7.1}**

Sen. Waterman said it was important to tie this back to the Commission, assuming the Commission exists, otherwise there is the possibility that the money would go to the department.

The question was called on the motion. The motion **PASSED** unanimously. Sen. Waterman **MOVED** to add the coordinating language. The question was called. The motion **PASSED** unanimously.

Rep. Tuss **MOVED DO PASS AS AMENDED.** The question was called. The motion **PASSED** unanimously. **{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 7.1 - 10.8}**

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HOUSE BILL 240

Rep. Swanson **MOVED DO PASS** HB 240. She explained this was the health benefits tax credits for health insurance for employers with one to nine employees. Rep. Swanson distributed amendments. Gordon Higgins explained the Cobb amendments. Rep. Swanson **MOVED THE AMENDMENTS.** The question was called. The motion **PASSED** unanimously. **{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 10.8 - 17.3}**

Gordon Higgins explained amendment #24001 which would extend the tax credit to year four and year five and the same percentages that were present in the bill in year three, which is 25%. **{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 17.3 - 18.3}**

John Huth from the State Auditor's Office explained the costs by adding the amendment. **{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 18.3 - 21}**

{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 21 - 26; Comments : Committee Discussion.}

Rep. Swanson **MOVED THE AMENDMENT.** Rep. Tuss asked the Auditor's Office about pools to decrease the costs. Claudia Clifford, with the Health Policy in the Insurance Department, described the health pool which is now called Community Health Options. Their options had been offered to state employees this year and they have begun to offer them to some private businesses. She said a purchasing pool was managed by Bill McDonald in Missoula. **{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 26 - 28.3}**

The question was called on the amendment. The motion **PASSED** 9-1 with Sen. Waterman voting no.

Rep. Swanson **MOVED THE BILL AS AMENDED.** The question was called. The motion **PASSED** unanimously.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HOUSE BILL 260

Rep. Mood **MOVED DO PASS.** Gordon Higgins presented amendments #26002 regarding research and commercialization centers. Sen. Tester **MOVED THE AMENDMENT.** **{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 29.5 - 33.1}**

Gordon Higgins distributed amendments #26001. This amendment would removed the provision that would require a quarterly transfer of 25% of the inflow of the tax into the research. He explained this resulted after consultation with Greg Petesch. **{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 37.4 - 40.3}**

{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 40.3 - 60; Committee Discussion}

Rep. Ohs **MOVED AMENDMENT ONE AND TWO.** The question was called. The motion **PASSED** with Sen. Grosfield, Sen. Waterman and Rep. Swanson voting no.

Rep. Ohs **MOVED** #11. The question was called. The motion **PASSED** unanimously.

Sen. Grosfield **MOVED AMENDMENT** #26002, #1, #2, #3, #4, and #6 (not #5). **{Tape : 2; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 9.8 - 10}**

{Tape : 2; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 10.6 - 19 Committee Discussion}

The question was called on the amendment. The motion **PASSED** unanimously.

Sen. Waterman **MOVED** an amendment. She said she had been asked by students of the university to list the things the Commission must consider. The question was called. The motion **PASSED** 6-4 on a roll call vote. **{Tape : 2; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 20.1 - 30.7; Comments : Discussion on the amendment.}**

Sen. Grosfield **MOVED THE BILL AS AMENDED**. The motion **PASSED** unanimously. **{Tape : 2; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 30.7 - 37.3}**

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HOUSE BILL 237

Rep. Swanson **MOVED DO PASS**. Gordon Higgins explained the Cobb amendment, #23701. He said the amendment would reduce the infrastructure loan minimum from 250-down to \$50 thousand, strike out 15 jobs to 1 job. There is some clarification that the raising of per capita income of Montana job holders be addressed. **{Tape : 2; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 38.8 - 40.3}**

Sen. Waterman **MOVED** amendments 3, 6, 8 and 9. The question was called. The motion **PASSED** 7-3 with Rep. Simon, Rep. Ohs, and Sen. DePratu voting no. **{Tape : 2; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 38.8 - 41}**

Rep. Swanson **MOVED DO PASS HB 237 AS AMENDED**. The question was called. The motion **PASSED** unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 6:57 P.M.

SEN. BOB DEPRATU, Chairman

DEB THOMPSON, Secretary

BD/DT

EXHIBIT (joh13aad)